



# ARMY MEDICINE | DPA SENDS

JUNE 29, 2021

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. The Army Surgeon General, LTG R. Scott Dingle, "TSG SENDS: COVID-19 and Army Medicine" messages from this week are included for your awareness. Please read!

• **TSG SENDS - COVID-19 and Army Medicine 77 (June 24, 2021)**

2. **2021 Independence Day Safety Message (June 28, 2021)**

COVID-19 Information:

- Army Medicine COVID-19 Hotline: **1-800-984-8523** or **DSN 312-421-3700**
- Army: **[www.army.mil/coronavirus](http://www.army.mil/coronavirus)**
- APHC: **<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19>**
- CDC Web Page: **[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)**
- DoD Web Page: **[www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus](http://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus)**
- Health.mil Web Page: **<https://health.mil/News/In-the-Spotlight/Coronavirus>**
- TRICARE Web Page: **<https://tricare.mil/coronavirus>**

Army Medicine

## STRATEGIC VISION

### JUNE OBSERVANCES

**Mens Health Month**

**Pride Month**

**PTSD Awareness Month**

**Summer Safety Month**

**Veterinary Corps Anniversary** - June 3

**D-Day Anniversary** - June 6

**Army Birthday** - June 14

**Father's Day** - June 20



ARMY MEDICINE PRESENTS

2020 - 2021

## CIVILIAN CORPS AWARD CEREMONY

OneStaff Civilian Employees of the Quarter  
and Employees of the Year

JULY 6

12:00 - 1:00 (EDT)

Link to ceremony will be available soon.



## ARMY MEDICINE WEEK IN REVIEW

### ARTICLES

1. COVID 'Stay Safe' principle also works for responsible sex (June 28) **[www.dvidshub.net/news/399924/covid-stay-safe-principle-also-works-responsible-sex](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/399924/covid-stay-safe-principle-also-works-responsible-sex)**
2. Army's Newest Physicians (June 25) **[www.dvidshub.net/news/399855/armys-newest-physicians](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/399855/armys-newest-physicians)**
3. CAANG unit partners with Weed ACH to administer COVID-19 vaccines (June 24) **[www.dvidshub.net/news/399922/caang-unit-partners-with-weed-ach-administer-covid-19-vaccines](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/399922/caang-unit-partners-with-weed-ach-administer-covid-19-vaccines)**
4. Changes ahead for BJACH with DHA Market Transition (June 24) **[www.dvidshub.net/news/399693/changes-ahead-bjach-with-dha-market-transition](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/399693/changes-ahead-bjach-with-dha-market-transition)**
5. Fort Irwin Dental Clinic Command welcomes new commander (June 24) **[www.dvidshub.net/news/399894/fort-irwin-dental-clinic-command-welcomes-new-commander](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/399894/fort-irwin-dental-clinic-command-welcomes-new-commander)**
6. Fort Carson Soldier Laser-Focused on Warrior Games Gold (June 24) **[www.dvidshub.net/news/399627/fort-carson-soldier-laser-focused-warrior-games-gold](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/399627/fort-carson-soldier-laser-focused-warrior-games-gold)**
7. APHC COVID-19 Task Force receives Army Medicine Quarterly Wolf Pack Award (June 23) **[www.army.mil/article/247796/aphc covid 19 task force receives army medicine quarterly wolf pack award](http://www.army.mil/article/247796/aphc-covid-19-task-force-receives-army-medicine-quarterly-wolf-pack-award)**
8. Fort Carson Soldier Can't Wait to Meet 'Inspiring' Teammates at Warrior Games (June 23) **[www.dvidshub.net/news/399542/fort-carson-soldier-cant-wait-meet-inspiring-teammates-warrior-games](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/399542/fort-carson-soldier-cant-wait-meet-inspiring-teammates-warrior-games)**
9. Change of command ceremony doesn't take a holiday at CAL MED (June 22) **[www.army.mil/article/247753/change of command ceremony doesnt take a holiday at cal med](http://www.army.mil/article/247753/change-of-command-ceremony-doesnt-take-a-holiday-at-cal-med)**

# ARMY MEDICINE WEEK IN REVIEW CONT.

## VIDEOS

1. Dental Corps: Questions from the Field – Season 3, Episode 2 (June 21) [www.dvidshub.net/video/804999/dental-corps-questions-field-season-3-episode-2](http://www.dvidshub.net/video/804999/dental-corps-questions-field-season-3-episode-2)
2. Behavioral Health Gets Closer to Patients (June 21) [www.dvidshub.net/video/804491/behavioral-health-gets-closer-patients](http://www.dvidshub.net/video/804491/behavioral-health-gets-closer-patients)

## TSG SENDS (June 24, 2021)

Army Medicine Family,

With deep sadness, we paid our respects and said a final farewell to our friend and colleague COL Edward McDaniel last week. He was the Medical Director of the Belvoir Hospital's Executive Medicine Clinic. Both he and his wife perished at the end of May. I extend condolences to all who knew, loved, and served with him. Sonja and I continue to hold them both in our hearts and in our prayers.

On behalf of CSM Hough and myself, I want thank you for participating in this week's Virtual Town Hall. We appreciate your input, questions, and concerns. It is important to us to stay connected with you as we navigate the changes to MEDCOM and the Military Health System (MHS).

For the entire Army Medicine enterprise, CSM Hough and I send congratulations to Combat Medic SFC Elizabeth Marks who is on her way to Tokyo for the Summer Olympics. Elizabeth will represent the U.S.A. as a para-swimmer. She was injured in 2010 while in Iraq and eventually lost her leg. She won Gold in her Paralympic debut in Rio and is the reigning world champion in the 100-meter breaststroke. Elizabeth has the fastest time in the world in her classification in the 100-meter freestyle. Go Army!

More kudos are in order. The Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) residency at Tripler Army Medical Center achieved the highest composite mean score in the nation on their annual Otolaryngology (ENT) Training Exam. This is a tremendous accomplishment as this exam is taken annually by all 121 ENT residency programs across the nation, both civilian and military. Tripler ENT is setting the standard and doing outstanding work!

This week, say hello to MAJ Yolanda Benson in our employee spotlight.

### Employee Spotlight



MAJ Yolanda Benson is the Executive Officer (XO) for the Patient Administration Division (PAD) within Patient Care Integration (PCI). She works at the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) Headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio. MAJ Benson is dual hatted and also serves as the 70E Patient Administration Officer consultant and manages all of the Army's 70Es.

MAJ Benson, who has been serving in the Army for 15 years said, "Patient administration is the cornerstone of health. We are where a patient begins, and we are where they end. We deal with birth certificates and death certificates and all of the administrative details in between." She said that can include managing health records and transferring patients, and they manage the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) system as well.



MAJ Benson doesn't have any civilian jobs to talk about because she joined the Army right out of college as an ROTC graduate from the University of Alabama. She has four siblings and her mom gave them three options: 1. Join the Army 2. Go to college and 3. Go to college and then join the Army.

"In my family, it's all about making the family proud," said MAJ Benson. "Being in the Army is a very big deal in my family and in my parents native home of Nigeria. Four of us joined the Army. Our family is so very proud of us." Her one sister who didn't join the Army was prevented from doing so because of illness.

MAJ Benson arrived at MEDCOM in 2019, but said her most rewarding and most challenging assignment was when she commanded a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. "I loved it," she said, "because I had the chance to really take care of Soldiers. I had 115 people to take care of, to build trust among. The unit was in bad shape when I arrived. But eventually they trusted me. Because I cared about them as people and not just about the mission. People will take care of the mission if you take care of them."

When MAJ Benson isn't serving in the Army, she is serving in her community. She has been in the Big Brother Big Sister program for 20-plus years. She and all her siblings were little sisters or a little brother in the program. As an adult, she gets to serve as a Big Sister. "I have a little sister here in San Antonio and I get a new one with each assignment and continue to stay in touch with the old ones.

When she isn't working and serving the communities, MAJ Benson loves to travel. "Traveling is my favorite passion," she said. "I love culture, new cultures, and new people. I love food. I love beaches. If I get time off, I travel."

MAJ Benson said that 90% of the time she travels alone because it's peaceful and she doesn't have to be on a schedule. Her favorite place to travel is Indonesia. She said she has been to the Maldives, Tokyo, Nigeria, the Gambia, and almost every place in the Caribbean.

MAJ Benson has met the man of her dreams who is also a Soldier, and they are engaged to be married.

Nice to meet you, MAJ Benson. Thanks for sharing with us this week. Thank you for your family's commitment to service.

Team, thank you always for all you do!

TSG 45

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R. SCOTT DINGLE  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
The Surgeon General and  
Commanding General, USAMEDCOM

**Useful links:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

<https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/covid19>

[www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus)

[www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

[www.usa.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)

**Chaplain Resilience Video:**

[www.facebook.com/ArmyChaplainCorps/videos/2679539028980334](https://www.facebook.com/ArmyChaplainCorps/videos/2679539028980334)



**AMERICA'S ARMY:**

**Army Medicine is Army Strong!**

## Independence Day 2021

As we celebrate Independence Day each year and the birth of our great nation, we also remember the sacrifices of those who fought in the Revolution and in every conflict since; we honor those brave men and women who have guaranteed our liberty for more than 245 years. These patriots risked everything to help build this great country. We must also remember the importance of the safety and well-being of our Soldiers, Family Members and Civilians.

This holiday weekend is traditionally filled with Family, friends, travel, and outdoor fun. While you take the well-earned time to celebrate, it is crucial that we all remain disciplined in adhering to health and safety protocols. Letting your guard down even for a second can prove to be detrimental. Travel, alcohol, weather, water activities, and fireworks, amongst other hazards, all introduce risks. Managing these risks with a solid plan and discipline is key for a successful holiday. Know your swimming abilities and swim only in approved areas. When handling fireworks, exercise caution and make sure you follow local firework restrictions. If you drink alcohol, remember responsible consumption will increase the likelihood of a safe weekend. We cannot allow complacency to creep in and harm members of our team.

Since 2016, the Army has averaged 33 four-wheel private motor vehicle (PMV-4) fatalities. This year we have already lost 30 of our brother and sister Soldiers! Distracted driving, speed and fatigue continue to be the leading cause of vehicular accidents. Driving after going more than 20 hours without sleep is the equivalent of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 %, which is illegal in the U.S. You are three times more likely to be in a car crash if you are fatigued.

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center officially launched the 2021 Safe Summer Campaign, which runs through September. Visit <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/Seasonal-Safety-Campaigns/Summer-Safety-2021> for tips to enjoy a safe summer.

Our sincerest thanks to each Soldier and Civilian for what you do in service each day to support and defend our Nation. You and your Families are essential to Army Medicine's mission. We are grateful to serve with each of you. Have a great holiday weekend, a happy Independence Day, and a continued safe summer!

Army Medicine is Army Strong!

DIAMOND D. HOUGH  
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